(iv) Implementation of MCA 21, the e-governance programmes of the Ministry of Company Affairs, under which disclosures made through documents filed by the companies as required by statute are available for viewing in electronic form, on-line, on round the clock basis to stakeholders on payment of prescribed fees. This initiative is aimed at ensuring enhanced transparency as to the management, governance and financial affairs of companies, thereby enabling protection of the interest of investors/ stakeholders.

Plan for investor education

4301. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out an elaborate plan for investor education and protection during the year 2007-08;

(b) in what manner Government propose to spread financial literacy and investor education;

(c) whether a special fund has been constituted for this purpose;

(d) whether Government would also warn small investors of the deliberate stock market manipulations; and

(e) the steps proposed to protect the small investors from being defrauded?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has chalked out an elaborate plan for investor education and protection under Investor Education & Protection Fund (IEPF) for the year 2007-2008:—

(i) Organising seminars/programmes on investor education through associations registered under IEPF to educate the investors about the Initial Public Offers (IPOs), Capital market instruments and mutual funds;

(ii) Conducting 'Training the Trainers' Programme for capacity building of the Non Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations;

(iii) Media Compaigns through Electronic and print medium to create investor awareness and spread Financial Literacy amongst potential investors;

(c) Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has been established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999 for promotion of investors awareness and protection of the interests of investors.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has taken the following steps to protect the small investors from being defrauded:—

(i) MCA-21, on e-governance initiative, has been launched with a view to bring transparency and certainty in the delivery of services to the stakeholders and empower the investors by providing access to the public information about the companies.

(ii) A new concept of Director Identification Number has been introduced for existing or intending directors, which would help in establishing the identity of a Director and also help in correlating his participation in other corporate entities.

(iii) A website, namely *www.watchoutinvestorscom,* which is a national registry of economic defaulters and covers information on convictions by various regulatory bodies, has been created to help, free of cost, the investors to protect themselves from unscrupulous promoters, companies and entities.

(iv) An "Investor Helpline" *www. investorhelpline.in* project has also been launched under IEPF through Midas Touch Investors Association to provide a mechanism for redressal of grievances and to create investor awareness, free of cost.

Compliance of clause 49 of listing agreement

4302. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether compliance of Clause 49 of the listing agreement is mandatory for listed companies;

(b) if so, what is the status of the compliance as on date in BSE Group A and NSE Nifty companies;